(a) whether Grop of Ministers on Central Legislation for Special Economic Zones under Chairmanship of Defence Minister has finalized its position, clearing path for a unified and stable export incentive and fiscal policy regime for units operating in these zones; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by this Group of Ministers and whether any legislation is being considered for giving a final touch on special zones formation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) On the basis of recommendations of the Group of Ministers headed by Defence Minister, a proposal for introduction of a Special Economic Zone Bill in the Parliament is under consideration of the Cabinet.

Sale of tea from small producers through auctions

4344. SH. SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what actions Government propose to take to ensure sale of tea from small producers through auctions;

(b) whether Government are aware of some syndicates considering the bids in the auction houses and retail prices of tea in the domestic market; and

(c) if so, how Government ensures remunerative prices for tea in the auction houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Steps taken to encourage tea producers of India, particularly the small tea producers, to sell their tea through public tea auctions include introduction of electronic auctions, encouraging opening of new auction centers and issue of direction on auction rules aiming at reduction in transaction time and cost, competition in auction system, enhancing the speed of auction to handle maximum volume etc.

(b) and (c) The prices of tea at the auctions are determined by the demand and supply position. The retail prices of tea in the domestic

market would be higher in view of the various distribution and marketing costs and retailers' margins involved. The auction system is a platform for efficient price discovery mechanism and ensures competition amongst the buyers through a transparent bidding process.

Export of dairy products

4345. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of dairy products during the last three years has shot up despite India holding marginal ranking in production of milk in the world;

(b) if so, the year-wise import of the same during the said period;

(c) the steps being taken for importing the same; and

(d) the names of the States leading in milk production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1989, import of all livestock products including dairy products is allowed against the sanitary import permit after conducting the risk analysis.

(d) The States leading in milk production are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Foreign Trade Policy 2005-06

4346. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Trade Policy 2005-06;

(b) the export targets fixed for agriculture, textiles, gems and jewellary and marine products; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the export target fixed for these sectors?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.